REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected again primarily in view of the disclosure of the previously cited Hitchcook patent. In response, the previously presented 22 Claims have all been cancelled and replaced with new claims, related to now-cancelled Claims 1 and 3.

In this regard, the present invention is characterized as having a character string which is composed of type specification characters which indicate a format of data which the form processing apparatus is able to receive, and in which the number of the type specification characters indicates the length of the data.

Further, the present invention is characterized in that getting means for getting plural words which are composed of the type specification characters on the basis of the determined kind of each type specification character, by determining whether the type specification character is composing a same word which is composed of the previous type specification character if the determined kind of the type specification character is same as the kind of the previous type specification character, and also by determining whether the type specification character is composing a different word from the word which is composed of the previous type specification character if the kind of the determined type specification character is different from the kind of the previous type specification character,

Also, the present invention is characterized as requiring second getting means for getting plural data by dividing the received data into the plural data in order from the top of the received data so that the length of a k^{th} gotten data is same as the number of the type specification character composing the k^{th} word gotten by the getting means.

Referring particularly to new Claim 23, Applicant points out that the setting means, as in the now-cancelled claims, is shown in Fig. 11, and the character string, for example YYYYMMDD, may be composed of type specification characters (Y, M, D in Fig. 10), wherein the type specification character indicates a format of data which the form processing apparatus is able to receive and the number(eight) of the type specification characters indicates length of the data, and setting the accepted character string for the field. The determining means(step S305) is disclosed for determining the kind of each type specification character(Y, M, D) in order from the top(Y) of the type specification characters(YYYYMMDD) composing the set character string and the claimed, getting means is disclosed for getting plural words(YYY,MM,DD) which are composed of the type of specification characters(Y,M,D) on the basis of the determined kind of each type specification character. The getting means gets plural words(YYYY,MM,DDD) by determining the type specification character if the determined kind of the type specification character(forth Y) is same as the kind of the previous type specification character is composing different word from the word which is composed of the previous type specification character if the kind of the determined type specification character(first M) is different from the kind of the previous type specification character(forth Y). Also, the counting means is disclosed for counting the number(4,2,2) of type specification characters composing each gotten word (YYYY,MM,DD), and the second getting means is disclosed for getting a plural data(2001,12,13) by dividing the received data(20011213) into the plural data in order from the top(2) of the received data so that the length(4) of a k^{th} gotten data(2001) is same as the number(4) of the type specification character composing the k^{th} word(YYYY) gotten by the getting means. Finally, the overlaying means is disclosed for overlaying each data(2001,12,13)

gotten by the second getting means onto a position in which each corresponding word(YYYY,MM,DD) is set in the field.

As is apparent from the above description, even if the data in the database file is not divided in the manner such as "20011213", it is possible to get "2001", "12", "13" and overlay them onto the field by setting the type specification character "YYYYMMDD" for the field.

On the other hand, a review of the *Hitchcook* patent, and the secondary *Rawat* reference, reveals that those references have as their object to provide a convenient system for users who feel burdened by inputing user information into each field of a variety of homepages. Accordingly, they disclose that user information previously registered by the user is overlaid onto each field in various homepages to achieve the object. For example, they disclose that user information like address and user name information is registered. If it is determined that a field in the homepage is set to be overlaid with address information, the address information in the registered user information is overlaid onto that field. In this respect, those cited patents disclose that address information is overlaid onto the field set to be overlaid with address information. However, they fail to disclose that data which is not divided is overlaid onto a field after being divided because the address information (corresponding data in field data source according to the present invention) does not need to be divided.

Furthermore, the cited *Rawat* patent refers to "parsing visual page elements" in lines 46-55 in column 3. But it merely discloses parsing means for parsing the field name in order to determine whether the field is to be overlaid with address information or name information, so *Rawat* fails to disclose dividing the address information and also fails to disclose

dividing the name information. In other words, *Rawat* it fails to disclose that data which is not divided is to be divided because the address information of the name information does not need to be divided.

The cited *Girgensohn* reference relates to technology for designing an online form. It discloses technology for setting the form of the data string to be received in the online form. For example, it is set in the telephone number field that the form of the data string that can be received is of the form "999 999-999" (refer to 3.3 the form description language). Further, that reference discloses that if data such as "626 624-9325" is inputted in the field by the user, the field receives data such as "626 624-9325", and if data such as "626 624-93256566" is inputted in the field by the user, the field does not receive the data in the form "626 624-93256566". However, the cited *Girgensohn* reference fails to disclose that received data (626 624-9325) is divided into some groups (626, 624, and 9325). Therefore, the *Girgensohn* reference fails to disclose that data in the field data source is divided.

For all of these various reasons it is believed that new Claim 23 and 24 are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

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